

## DISPOSABLE DIAPER CHANGING ASSEMBLY

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a composite article for providing a desired combination of related and cooperating components for maintenance or cleaning operations. More particularly, the invention relates to a composite article for providing a related combination of components for the hygiene of an individual, such as the changing of a diaper on an infant.

[0002] Conventional systems for providing hygienic components for the care of an individual have included infant care bags for storing bottles, diapers, wet wipes, and other infant care supplies. Particular diaper changing bags have included closeable storage compartments, and have included carrying handles and foldable flaps.

[0003] Other systems have provided a package which included a disposable diaper, a separate changing pad and disposal container. The package could also include a closeable packet for retaining a wet wipe. Still other systems have included a disposable diaper with a diaper body having a pouch arranged to enclose a changing pad. The changing pad is removable from the pouch, and containers for holding personal care products, such as lotions, powders, oils, ointments, and wipes, are connected to the changing pad.

[0004] Conventional systems, such as those described above, have been cumbersome and unwieldy. Where components have been packaged together, it has been difficult to deploy the changing pad without scattering the other package contents. Where components such as changing pads and wet wipes are contained within the structure of a disposable diaper, the infant may be burdened with carrying about extra items which are bulky or uncomfortable. In other systems, a changing pad has been employed to package a diaper and possibly other related items. With the above systems, it has been difficult to simultaneously deploy the system while managing a squirming infant.

[0005] As a result, there has remained a need for a disposable assembly which conveniently and efficiently provides a desired combination of a drape or pad along with one or more other individual associated items for a given task. In particular, there has remained a need for a convenient and easy to use composite article which includes needed components for individual hygiene. For example, there has remained a need for a composite article which provides a changing pad and an individual disposable garment, along with optional wet wipe (s).

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] Generally stated, the present invention provides a disposable assembly relating to the changing of a disposable garment. The assembly includes a drape defined by a sheet having a terminal end opposite a free end, and a drape width. The assembly further includes a package having a first compartment, a package width, and an accessible outer surface located opposite an attachment outer surface. The attachment outer surface defines an attachment area. There is a disposable garment disposed in the first compartment. The terminal end of the drape is attached to the attachment outer surface of the package so that only a portion of the attachment area is covered by the drape.

[0007] In another aspect of the present invention, a disposable assembly is used to protect a surface for performing a task. The disposable assembly includes a drape defined by a sheet having a terminal end opposite a free end. The assembly further includes a package having a first compartment and a second compartment, and an accessible outer surface opposite an attachment outer surface. The attachment outer surface defines an attachment area. A first article is disposed in the first compartment and a second article is disposed in the second compartment. The terminal end of the drape is attached to the attachment outer surface of the package so that only a portion of the attachment area is covered by the drape.

[0008] In yet another aspect of the invention is a method of protecting a surface for performing a change of an absorbent garment. The method includes a step of providing a disposable assembly in a storage condition, the disposable assembly comprising a drape defined by a sheet having a terminal end opposite a free end; a package having a first compartment; and a disposable garment disposed in the first compartment; wherein the terminal end of the drape is attached to the attachment outer surface of the package so that only a portion of the attachment area is covered by the drape. Other steps include: deploying the disposable assembly onto a support surface; opening the first compartment; and removing the absorbent garment.

[0009] When compared to conventional devices, such as those described above, the various aspects of the composite article of the invention can provide a more effective combination and presentation of associated and interrelated components. In particular, aspects the present invention can more efficiently provide a more readily usable and effective combination of personal hygiene components, such as a drape in the form of a changing pad, a disposable diaper, and a plurality of wet wipes. The composite article advantageously provides an ergonomically designed combination package which is more easily opened and manipulated. The drape can be easily unfolded while the other contained components are maintained in place. Once the drape is opened, the other components are conveniently presented for ready use. Advantageously, the assembly may be deployed with one hand.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] The present invention will be more fully understood and further advantages will become apparent when reference is made to the following detailed description of the invention and the drawings, in which:

[0011] FIG. 1 shows a perspective view of one embodiment of a composite article of the present invention in a folded storage condition;

[0012] FIG. 1A shows a partial cross sectional view of the composite article of the present invention taken at line 1A-1A shown in FIG. 1;

[0013] FIG. 2 shows a perspective view of the composite article of FIG. 1, in an unused folded condition;

[0014] FIG. 3 shows a perspective view of the composite article shown in FIG. 1 in an unused deployed condition;

[0015] FIG. 4 shows a partial perspective view of the composite article of FIG. 3;

[0016] FIG. 5 shows a plan view of the composite article of FIG. 3, in a used deployed condition; and